

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

March 2, 1999

LB 514

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Kristensen, will you respond?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Would that be roughly correct?

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Oh, yes. I'm not quick on my feet on math, but just take 15,000 or take 20,000, and ballpark it high, times \$5.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: You know, that's not, no.

SENATOR BEUTLER: So roughly in that area and that's means tested. That is, it depends on your being on food stamps or Medicaid or whatever. At the same time with this bill, combined with what we're directing the Public Service Commission to do, we're transferring, "subsidy-wise", roughly another...would it be fair to say \$49 million or so to rural subscribers whose bills will be too high unless that subsidy is otherwise provided?

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: I think that's the number that's generally accepted in terms of...of the amount of the Universal Service Fund. Realize that out of the universal serv...the lion's share of it's going to go there. You're also going to have some money that's going to go for schools and libraries. You're going to have some money that goes to Lifeline. You're going to have some money that goes to rural health, hospitals. Now there's very little of that.

SENATOR BEUTLER: But even if you subtract out all of those...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: That...

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...things and be liberal about it, \$45 million or more is going to...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Yes.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...remote rural...